(b) if so, whether those guidelines have been issued to the State Governments; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. R. BOMMAI): (a) to (c) The Framework for National Curriculum for Elementary and Secondary Education developed by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) in 1988 states that the medium of instruction should be the mother tongue. In the case of learners whose mother tongue is also the language of the region, the medium of instruction at elementary stage should be the regional language. In the case of those where mother tongue is different from the regional language, the mother tongue may be used as medium during the first two years of primary education and the regional language should be used subsequently.

NCERT's guidelines have been circulated to the state Governments.

Programme for development of sheep wool

*331. SHRI RAJENDRA PRASAD MODY: Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDARY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state:

(a) the various steps taken by Government for the devlopment of sheep wool, and upgradation of technology and production system to compete in the international market;

(b) whether it is a fact that India's share of the world market in woollen fabrics and garments is only 0.2 per cent at present;

(c) whether any proposal is under consideration of Government to set-up a wool project in Rajasthan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDARY AND DAIRYING (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The Government have initiated several steps for the development of sheep/wool, which include:

i. Setting up of Central Sheep Breeding Farm for production and supply of acclimatised exotic and crossbred rams to the State Governments for bringing genetic improvement.

ii. Assisting the State Governments instrengthening of sheep farms for production and supply of superior stock in field and in undertaking market intervention activities.

iii. Setting up of a high level Central Committee to advise the Government on all matters relating to development of sheep, goats and rabbits.

iv. The Central Wool Development Board of the Ministry of Textiles has been supporting various projects for the utilisation of wool which include Integrated Sheep/Wool Development Programme, Wool Scouring Plants, Wool Testing Centres and Industrial Service Centres, Carpet Weaving Training Centre, Training Scheme for manufacture of woollen products, Weaving and Designing Training Centre etc.

(b) The country's share in the export of woollen fabrics and woollen garments is 0.6 per cent and 0.78 per cent respectively, of the world trade.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Non formal education in Assam

*332. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the Centrally sponsored schemes of non-formnal education in Assam, district-wise;

(b) whether voluntary agencies are also engaged in educating illiterate women and children; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the assistance provided to them by Government during the preceding three years?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) to (c) The Centrally sponsored scheme of Non-Formal Education is an alternative channel for providing elementary education to children in the age-group 6.14 years who have never enrolled in parimary schools or dropped out due to various socio-economic constraints. Under the scheme, State Governments and Voluntary Agencies are given Central grants for running NFE (Non-Formal Education) centres. The State Governments are given 60% Central assistance for co-educational centres and 90% for girls centres. Voluntary Agencies are given 100% assistancne for NFE centres sanctioned by this Department. The scheme as originally envisaged, was meant for 9 educationally backward States, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. It was later extended to Arunachal Pradesh and hilly areas, predominantly tribal areas and urban slums in other States.

This Department is providing assistance under the Scheme to 13508 NFE centres run by Government of Assam and 705 NFE centres run by voluntary agencies in 19 districts of the State. The district wise details of NFE centres sanctioned in the state and assistance extended to voluntary agencies over the last 3 years are given in the enclosed statment.

Statement

Table A

District-wise details of NFE centres as on 31.3.96 in the State of Assam:-

S.No.	Name of District	Number of centres	
		State Sector	Voluntary sector
1.	Dhubri	784	140
2.	Goalpara	672	—
3.	Kokrajhar	784	—
4.	Barpeta	896	90
5.	Nalbari	784	50
6.	Kamrup	1120	—
7.	Darrang	672	—
8.	Sonitpur	784	—
9.	Nagaon	1443	75
10.	Lakhimpur	896	100
11.	Dhamaji		
12.	Jorhat	672	50
13.	Golaghat	560	—
14.	Sibsagar	666	—
15.	Dibrugarh	1110	—
16.	Cachar	1110	100
17.	Hailakandi		
18.	Karimganj	555	—
19.	Moregaon	—	100
	Total	13508	705

TABLE-B

Details of grants released to voluntary organisations in Assam in the preceeding three years:

	Year	Number of voluntary agencies assisted	Grant Released ato Voluntary Agencies (rupees in lakhs)
1.	1993-94	7	17.79
2.	1994-95	12	39.57
3.	1995-96	14	43.86